

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

2229 E. Buck Road

Pennsburg, PA 18073

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting

September 28, 2020 6:00 p.m.

via ZOOM, Meeting Recorded

**CHAIR:** Dr. Kerry Drake

Ex-Officio: Dr. Kerry Drake, President

**MEMBERS:**

Stephen Cunningham

Judy Maginnis

Superintendent – Dr. Allyn J. Roche

Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Andrea Farina

Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Kimberly Bast

Director of Technology – James Roth

Curriculum Supervisor – Sarah Rothermel

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of June 2020 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)
2. Virtual Learning Updates-
  - A. What's working well
  - B. Challenges that remain
3. Curriculum Purchases to Support Virtual Learning
4. Full Day K Update
5. [Curriculum Review](#) scheduled for 2020-2021
6. Ready to Learn Grant Funding, PPCD Grant Funding - Technology Integration Specialists (2)
7. Review of 2019-2020 and goals for 2020-2021
8. World Language Update - All three languages are being offered for interested students in 8th grade: Current enrollment: 101 in Spanish, 17 in German, and 13 in French.
9. High School St. Luke's Program- Seven seniors will participate in Monday morning lectures via Microsoft Teams beginning October 12, 2020
10. Comments & Questions

**Date for next meeting:** Monday, October 26, 2020 6:00pm

*Committee Mission Statement:*

*To support and enable instructional opportunities that engage students at all levels to achieve at their highest potential ensuring success in both academics and in life after graduation; resulting in a district where students want to learn, teachers want to teach, and parents/guardians want to send their children.*

*In order to assist in keeping an accurate record of the proceedings of this meeting, the meeting is being videotaped by the District.*

## Attachment A

### AGENDA - NOTES IN RED

**\*\*Unfortunately, this meeting was not recorded\*\***

1. Approval of February 2020 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A) Approved. **Approved 6/8**
2. [Update on Full Day Kindergarten Program Development and Implementation](#) Review of the linked plan, and shared Guiding Principles, Mission, Vision, and Belief statements: (draft below):

#### ***Guiding Principle #1***

All children can learn and deserve high expectations that are age-, individually-, and culturally- appropriate with a balance between teacher and child initiated activities.

#### ***Guiding Principle #2***

Young children learn best when they are able to construct knowledge through meaningful play, active exploration of the environment, and thoughtfully planned activities with time to explore topics in depth.

#### ***Guiding Principle #3***

Language and early literacy development must be age appropriate, supported and integrated throughout all aspects of early care and education programs.

#### ***Guiding Principle #4***

The learning environment for young children should stimulate and engage their curiosity of the world around them; full of experiential learning, encouraging higher order thinking and problem solving, in a manner that meets their physical and emotional needs so that they feel safe and secure.

**MISSION:** To provide a Safe, Child-Centered Environment which fosters social, emotional, and cognitive growth for all students.

**VISION:** A nurturing environment that elicits curiosity, creativity, choice and confidence in learning and provides opportunities for building meaningful relationships.

**Social:** Students will become independent thinkers who can problem solve and communicate their needs with one another in a respectful manner.

**Emotional:** Students will demonstrate self-regulation and identify socially acceptable ways to express emotions.

**Cognitive:** Students will develop routines and utilize strategies to accomplish challenging tasks.

#### **BELIEF STATEMENTS:**

- We believe in creating a classroom community that allows students to apply and practice expected social skills and to be accountable for their actions.
  - We believe in building supportive relationships in a positive, nurturing environment.
  - We believe learning can occur through active involvement in various modalities (purposeful play, small group and whole group instruction, independent exploration)
3. [Curriculum Review Cycle, Budget, Handbook Review; Writers for 20-21](#) (approved to put on June agenda). Mrs. Bast and Dr. Farina discussed the Curriculum Review Cycle, how it is a guideline for what to review and that fiscal resources impact how many/which courses can be reviewed at one time (well). Most purchases are made for a 6 or 7 year cycle, so once curriculum is written, there are several years to improve the use of the resource to deliver the written curriculum. We analyze data often throughout the year, and in the summer to inform what professional development may be needed. Once a written curriculum is implemented, it allows for the focus on instruction and improving instructional practice- this is where the most gains are made with student learning. When the curriculum review cycle was established it honored prioritization of core subject areas, but adherence to it as much as possible is what will allow all subject areas to be reviewed, revised,

and rewritten to the benefit of our students. The links above show the Curriculum Review Cycle, and the budget that we have projected for the next few years. Additionally, we have linked the handbook we use with teachers, and the list of curriculum writers for 20-21, which was approved to appear on the board agenda this Thursday. The list also has a projection of writers over the next two year.

- Middle School Math. It was mentioned that our achievement scores have been stagnant or falling last several years. CPM math was instituted a few years ago in the middle school to try to address, but it was a 60 minute/class period program implemented in 45 minute class periods. This year was the first time teachers will have a full 60 minutes per class to cover material as designed by the curriculum writers, so we will need to wait and see if correction of scheduling issue addresses the achievement.
  - Important Background information was reviewed to provide context for the discussion:
    - 1) Many courses have not been updated for 12 years or longer
    - 2) 2017 (approx. 3 years ago) was the first year that formal schedules for review and replacement of textbooks was developed
    - 3) Prioritization based on need discussion (prioritize new curriculum based on district achievement)
      - Prioritization based on time since last update mainly.
      - Don't want to shortchange some subjects vs others based solely on standardized test results)
      - Prioritization is also based on budgetary constraints.
  - Prior to 2017 there was not great visibility on this as a budgetary item, and no C&I committee for discussion and review.
  - Target budget for 2019-20 for books, materials, and curriculum writing were \$200K this year for curriculum updates; plan is to increase funding every year by \$90-100K to enable updates of more courses to catch up.
  - Total cost for 6 year plan and complete curriculum review is \$2.7 Million spread over 6 years.
  - Even though we have many subject areas that have not been updated in a long time, the administration is concerned a high cost would not be approved by the board, and we don't have enough curriculum writer bandwidth to do all at once.
4. At Home Learning update and current planning for fall 2020. We have been meeting in small and large groups to discuss options for the fall of 2020 and to reflect on At Home Learning. We also have a parent survey out, with 1050 parent responses so far; and a teacher survey with about 125 teacher responses so far. We will analyze data from these surveys to help plan for the fall. We know that starting the year at home would be drastically different than leaving in March, after students and teachers know each other and their families. We are looking at a number of options for the fall and pricing out each.

5. [Requests for Textbooks/Materials](#), approved for board agenda in June

Grade Level	Course/ Subject	Textbook/resource requested	Number of teacher resources needed	Number of student licences	Cost
5th	Social Studies	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Student Print & Digital Licenses 9780358401315 Into Social Studies Student License Print/Digital 6 Year Grade 5 Beginnings to the Civil War		310	\$26040
5th	Social Studies	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Teacher Print & Digital Licenses 9780358401315 Into Social Studies Print/Digital 6 Year Grade 5 Beginnings to the Civil War	7		\$728
<b>TOTAL COST</b>					<b>26,768</b>

6. **World Language Update - Middle School.** Part of Review from World Language was to introduce World Language at the Middle School, and we are excited that if all goes as expected, students at the MS will be able to choose from Spanish, French, or German if they want to take World Language in MS. There are some items to be worked out first, but we are hopeful.
7. [Keystone Exam update \(Covid-19 changes\)](#)- Link to PDE information. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has made some changes to the summer testing window and requirements for students who took Keystone courses in the 2019-2020 School Year. Please click on the link for more information. The administrative team at UPSD is recommending that we offer this test to students who took Keystone courses next year. Families may opt out for any reason. The summer testing window has been shifted to September 28-October

**Date for next meeting: Fall 2020 - August 31st.** See chart below...tentative dates, will confirm at next meeting.

Curriculum & Instruction Board Meeting Dates 20-21 School Year  
6-7PM Zoom or in-person at the Education Center

Day	Date
Monday	August 31
Monday	September 28
Monday	October 26
Monday	November 23
Monday	January 25
Monday	February 22
Monday	March 22
Monday	April 26
Monday	June 7